

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 671 - HB 983**

March 10, 2015

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Prohibits any state-mandated standardized assessment from being conducted earlier than the third grade. Prohibits local education agencies (LEAs) from administering any locally mandating standardized assessments, including tests used to evaluate reading and other basic skills, in grades kindergarten through second (K-2).

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease State Expenditures - \$1,545,000**

**Decrease Local Expenditures - \$1,856,200**

**Assumptions:**

- The state and LEAs will continue to administer tests relative to English language learners (ELL) and special education students in order to comply with federal laws and regulations relative to Title III for ELL students and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- State and local revenue from federal Title III and IDEA funding will not be reduced.
- The state and LEAs pay for a variety of diagnostic tools that are used to measure reading and other skills.
- Based on information from the Department of Education (DOE), the state budget for K-2 assessments, exclusive of ELL students and students with disabilities is approximately \$1,545,000. As a result, the recurring decrease in state expenditures is estimated to be \$1,545,000.
- Based on information from the DOE's 2013-2014 annual statistical report, there are an estimated 232,026 students in grades K-2.
- LEAs purchase a variety of diagnostic assessments to measure academic performance in grades K-2. Based on information from DOE, the amount spent on these assessments is different for each LEA, but costs range from \$4.00 to \$12.00 per student per assessment.
- Using an average per-student per-assessment cost of \$8.00, the recurring decrease in local expenditures for no longer conducting LEA-mandated diagnostic assessments is estimated to be \$1,856,208 (\$8.00 x 232,026).

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

**SB 671 - HB 983**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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